

The Address—Mr. Hees

tional and the thousands of civil servants of the Montreal area who work in various federal departments. I would like Mr. Lévesque to answer this question.

I should also like to remind the citizens of the Montreal region of the contribution of the Canadian government in the field of social and community aid in 1977-78. With regard to family allowances, the Montreal area then had over 975,000 children and the Canadian government paid the mothers of those children an amount totalling \$303 million. Under the heading of old age security, there were 300,000 senior citizens in the Montreal region to whom the Canadian government paid globally over \$783 million. Under the heading the New Horizons Program, which program the Canadian government implemented to allow our senior citizens to take a more active part in the life of their communities, the Canadian government paid \$1.4 million. Under unemployment insurance, it paid \$723 million in 1977.

Under housing, from 1975 to 1978, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Canadian government granted loans totalling over \$173 million for the construction and purchase of houses and income-producing housing complexes in the Montreal region. Direct loans for public housing there totalled over \$102 million. Moreover, the corporation lent in the Montreal area more than \$21 million for rehabilitating individual and multiple housing units. And CMHC guaranteed in the same area loans totalling more than \$1.5 million from 1975 to 1978. All those direct and guaranteed loans contributed to the acquisition and rehabilitation of 92,199 dwellings. What did the Government of Canada do to help the municipalities? Municipalities in the Montreal area benefitted under CMHC programs, particularly those dealing with municipal infrastructure, neighbourhood improvement, public housing and medium density promotion. CMHC paid the municipalities in the area more than \$428 million from 1975 to 1978 under those programs. Furthermore, the Department of Finance of Canada contributed in excess of \$16.2 million in payments in lieu of taxes to municipalities and school boards in the Montreal area in 1977-78.

I would also like to remind people of the assistance of the government of Canada to businesses. The Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce guaranteed loans totalling \$18.4 million to small businesses in the Montreal area in 1977-78. With respect to business expansion, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce of Canada paid grants of \$2.5 million and guaranteed loans totalling \$13 million in the area under the program to promote business expansion and efficiency. In 1978 the Federal Development Bank awarded in the Montreal area 731 business loans totalling \$50.5 million. In 1978 the Export Development Corporation concluded with Montreal businesses agreements exceeding \$150 million.

Those are accomplishments, Mr. Speaker, not promises like those made by the PQ. In concluding, for all the negative reasons I have outlined with respect to the Parti Québécois and

for all the positive reasons I have set out in respect of the Government of Canada and because I am proud to be Franco-Phone, a Montrealer, a Quebecker and a Canadian, I will be voting No to the PQ question and I am sure the very great majority of Quebeckers will say No to the PQ proposition.

[English]

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, one of the very important things which Canada must do is to become self-sufficient in oil, thereby enabling this country to get out of the hands of foreign oil producers who are now able to charge us anything they like and cut off our supplies whenever it suits them to do so.

To bring this about the government must first of all introduce a very extensive program of research and development to develop cheaper alternative sources of energy, such as energy produced from the sun, grain alcohol, coal, uranium, the tar sands, hydroelectric sources, solid municipal waste, agricultural and forest waste, unutilized industrial by-product heat, and biomass conversion.

The government must also greatly increase the use of natural gas for heating houses, office buildings, factories and apartment buildings. This can be done by subsidizing the cost of the change-over from present oil-heating equipment to gas-heating equipment, and thus greatly encourage people to make this change.

We have abundant supplies of natural gas in this country. Our supplies of this excellent fuel increased by 7½ per cent during the past year and we have more than 7,000 capped gas wells which have had to remain capped because of lack of demand for this valuable heating fuel.

If we can change over from oil heating to gas heating and develop the alternative sources of cheaper energy which I have mentioned, we can use Canadian oil for transportation and plastics only; become self-sufficient in oil; and become independent of the present costly and uncertain supplies of off-shore oil which our present position makes necessary.

As an example of what can be done to introduce a positive program to bring about self-sufficiency in oil, I would like to mention briefly what my own province of Ontario is doing at the present time. In the area of conservation they have set themselves some tough goals. By 1985 they are aiming to reduce the growth in demand in Ontario for all forms of energy to no more than 2 per cent a year while the annual growth in demand for petroleum will be cut to zero per cent per capita.

● (1610)

To my mind, conservation is the most valuable energy resource we have. It is cheap, powerful, abundant, and easily accessible. All it takes is a little common sense, and in some cases, a little help from the government.